

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02385 181014Z

15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 /071 W

----- 063755

O 180946Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9058

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USCINCUER VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2385

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN/DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJ: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. THERE IS AIR OF SOME OPTIMISM TODAY, BASED ENTIRELY AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, ON FAITH IN SYRIAN ABILITY COME UP WITH SOLUTION TO LEBANESE PROBLEM. RUMORS ARE MAKING THE ROUNDS THAT THE NECESSARY DEAL HAS BEEN MADE FOR SARKIS TO BE FRANGIE'S SUCCESSOR. PHALANGE SAYING PUBLICLY THEY ARE HAPPY WITH THEIR DAMASCUS TALKS.

2. HOWEVER, ACTING DCM WAS TOLD BY FRANGIE INTIMATE LUCIEN DAHDAH LAST NIGHT THAT SITUATION LOOKED "VERY BAD". DHADAH POINTED TO CLASHES NEAR ALEY AND IN THE SHOUF INVOLVING JUMBLAT PEOPLE AND CHRISTIAN VILLAGES. HE SAID PRESIDENT WAS MISUNDERSTOOD WITH
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RESPECT TO HIS PROMISE TO RESIGN ON TWO-THIRDS VOTE

OF PARLIAMENT, ALLEGED SOME SIGNATURES WERE FRAUDULENT AND IMPLIED FRANGIE WOULD NOT LEAVE BEFORE HIS MANDATE ENDS IN SEPTEMBER. STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT WOULD NOT LEAVE BEFORE SEPTEMBER 23 WAS ALSO MADE PUBLICLY BY CHAMOUN AFTER HE SAW FRANGIE YESTERDAY. AT SAME TIME, DAHDAH EXPRESSED SOME HOPE FOR AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION THROUGH THE SYRIANS. HE REQUESTED THAT THE USG ADDRESS AN APPEAL TO THE SYRIANS THAT WHATEVER THEY DO, THEY SHOULD ACT TO PROTECT THE TRADITIONAL LEBANESE INSTITUTIONS.

3. SITUATION ON THE GROUND IN BEIRUT REMAINS TENSE WITH SOME SNIPER FIRE BUT NO GREAT AMOUNT OF FIGHTING. AREA AROUND EMBASSY HAS BEEN QUIET SINCE LAST NIGHT WITH EXCEPTION OF BRIEF FLURRY AROUND 5 A.M. WHEN A FEW MORTAR ROUNDS WERE HEARD SOMEWHERE IN THIS VICINITY. PAPERS MAKE MUCH OF REPORTED SYRIAN PLEDGE TO MAINTAIN SECURITY ABOVE ALL IN LEBANON.
LMABRAKIS

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